



THOMAS BOWLER
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SUPERINTENDENT

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

BERKSHIRE COUNTY
OFFICE OF SHERIFF

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BRAD LITTLE
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To: Sheriff Thomas Bowler
From: A.S. Daniel Sheridan
Date: January 28, 2019
Re: Annual Report of PREA Investigations for Calendar Year 2018

Pursuant to 115.88 Data Review for Corrective Action, the Berkshire Sheriff's Office completes an annual report to assess the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response. Policies, procedures and training are examined to identify any problem areas and take corrective action on an ongoing basis and the report summarizes those findings and corrective actions.

Specific material may be redacted from the report when it would present a clear and specific threat to safety and security, but the report must still indicate the nature of any redacted material.

Through our Review of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Investigations and, we have compiled the following data in accordance with PREA standards into the following table:

BERKSHIRE COUNTY JAIL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION 2018 STATISTICS

2018				
TYPE OF INCIDENT	ALLEGATIONS	SUBSTANTIATED	UNSUBSTANTIATED	UNFOUNDED
Inmate on Inmate sexual abuse	2	1	0	1
Staff on Inmate sexual abuse	1	0	1	0
Inmate on Inmate sexual harassment	6	2	1	3
Staff on Inmate sexual harassment	8	0	0	8
Annual total	17	3	2	12
Outside Agency Notifications	1			

The Berkshire County Sheriff's Office has a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment. Every allegation, report or discovery of sexual activity is investigated as a PREA violation. Only after a full investigation are incidents categorized as either a PREA violation or not (e.g., consensual, but unauthorized inmate-on-inmate sexual activity that may be a rule violation, rather than a PREA violation).

There was one substantiated PREA incident during 2017 and 3 substantiated PREA incidents during 2018. An analysis of the PREA allegations over the past two years does not reveal a pattern of behavior involving any particular areas of the facility or particular individuals. In July of 2017, video surveillance was enhanced with the addition of several cameras in strategic areas and cameras which previously provided live feed but did not record, now record. In addition, video footage is retained for a longer period of time due to increased storage capacity. Over the past year, the facility transitioned the software system from IMATS to OMS (offender management systems). OMS allows greater tracking capability and increased documentation which has been useful in investigations. OMS has also been adopted by most of the other Sheriff's Offices in the Commonwealth. The BCSO has also hired additional bilingual and multilingual staff (including American Sign Language) and three additional staff obtain specialized training in conducting PREA investigations. We also hired a retired Massachusetts State Police Detective Lieutenant who formerly headed the District Attorney's Crime Prevention and Control (CPAC) Unit to assist with PREA prevention, investigations and oversight.

The facility conducts monthly meetings of the PREA Review Committee to review any investigations for the previous month and make recommendations for any necessary modifications or enhancements (additional signage, training of staff and/or inmates, surveillance, etc.) to deter any potential incidents of sexual abuse or harassment.